

BRIDPORT  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1971



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# T A B L E   O F   C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
Public Health and Plans Committee and Public Health Department Staff	2
Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health .. .. .	3
Local and Vital Statistics .. .. .	6
Comments on Vital Statistics .. .. .	8
Causes of Death .. .. .	9
Control of Communicable Diseases .. .. .	10 - 12
Infectious Disease .. .. .	12
National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951 .. .. .	13
Welfare of the Elderly .. .. .	13
Rehousing on Medical Grounds .. .. .	13
Adult Health Education .. .. .	13
Milk Samples .. .. .	13
Fluoridation of Water .. .. .	13
Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector .. .. .	14
Housing .. .. .	16 - 24
Food Premises and Food Inspection .. .. .	25 - 29
Water Supplies .. .. .	30 - 31
Drainage and Sewerage .. .. .	32
Public Conveniences .. .. .	32 - 33
Public Cleansing .. .. .	33
Clean Air .. .. .	33
Factories Act 1961 .. .. .	34 - 35
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963 .. .. .	35 - 36
Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963 .. .. .	36
Noise Abatement Act 1960 .. .. .	36 - 37
Rodent Control and Eradication of Vermin .. .. .	38 - 39
Caravan and Camping Sites .. .. .	39

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1971

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Health Department  
Telephone: Bridport 2301

Mountfield,  
Bridport,  
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Medical Officer of Health  
Dorchester 3131. Ext. 470

PUBLIC HEALTH AND PLANS COMMITTEE 1971

Mr. H. Williams, (Chairman)  
Mr. R.B. Howarth, M.B.E. (Vice-Chairman)

Mr. W.G. Bryan  
Colonel R.E.A. Foulger, M.C., T.D.  
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Mr. A.A.J. Palmer (Chairman of the Council)  
Lieutenant-Colonel H.J.G. Weld, M.C., J.P.  
Mr. F.H. White  
Mr. J.G. Willy

STAFF - PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health.  
K.J. Adams, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
(Resigned 30th September)  
Chief Public Health Inspector.  
J.C. Angus, M.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.  
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector.  
J.R. Newman, C.Eng., A.M.I.Mun.E., F.R.S.H.  
Additional Public Health Inspector.  
K.S. Bolt, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.  
(Resigned 30th November)  
Public Health Inspector (Meat Inspection).  
E.E. Roughton, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.  
Pupil Public Health Inspector.  
D. Hayball (Joint Appointment)  
Rodent Operative.  
K.S. Griffin  
Clerk/Typists.  
Mrs. C.A. Lee  
Mrs. S.J. Denner

BRIDPORT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1971

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1971

---

Telephone: Dorchester 3131  
Extension 470

The Colliton Clinic,  
Glyde Path Road,  
Dorchester,  
Dorset.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the  
Bridport Rural District Council

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Mr. Chairman, Councillors,

I am pleased to submit to you a report for the year 1971, when Dr. K. Adams was your Medical Officer of Health. Dr. Adams resigned his appointment from the 30th September but continued to carry out the duties of Medical Officer of Health until the 31st January 1972.

You will observe from the vital statistics that although there were more deaths than births this year the estimated mid-year population rose. These figures must be accounted for by the fact that Bridport Rural District with its coast line and unspoiled villages has become the ideal retirement area for immigrants from other counties, thus increasing the number of deaths in the age 65 and over group, as well perhaps as the effects of the national campaign for planned parenthood and the implementation of the Abortion Act of 1967. It is good to know that no person under 54 died of lung cancer, ischaemic heart disease or cerebrovascular disease, the three great killers of the present time.

Generally we have had a low incidence of infectious disease. During the summer months when it is estimated that Bridport Rural District increases its population by 1,300 many of these enjoying caravan and tenting holidays the Public Health Department is ever watchful of the area's sanitary hygiene. It is therefore regrettable that for the second year there has been a dysenteric-like illness predominant among bathers in the lagoon formed by the river Bride at its entry through the Chesil Beach to the sea. Despite the efficient service from the Public Health Laboratory in Dorchester no pathogenic causative organisms were isolated. The Department will continue its efforts to clear up this complaint which spoils so many holidays in Bridport Rural District.

Since Dorset has a large dairy farming community cases of Brucellosis - a disease passed from animal to man (cattle, sheep, goats and swine) - are reported at intervals. The disease usually occurring in cattle handlers from direct contact or from the consumption of raw unpasteurised milk or market products from an infected animal. The Government eradication scheme moves forward. One of the main deterrents of the scheme being that only those farmers with clean herds may join. Owners of infected herds therefore are liable financially for their own tests and if they decide to slaughter the infected animal the financial

loss is theirs alone. Compensation for those in the scheme has not during 1971 been up to market value. It is therefore easy to see how occasionally an infected animal is undetected. The results of a screening test on cattle handlers would make interesting reading since Brucellosis may be either acute systemic disease or slow and insidious and therefore a missed diagnosis.

Withdrawal of the mass x-ray service is complete. X-ray facilities exist some 15 to 20 miles distant in Dorchester. Distance and expense are limiting factors in a rural area. One new case of tuberculosis was registered in the Bridport Rural District area too late for treatment.

Local Government reorganisation along with reorganisation of the Health Service draws near. This Department will continue to carry out routine investigations and to safeguard the health of your district for yet another year.

I would like to thank Mrs. Jean Denner for her help in compiling this report.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. Eileen Hodgson

Medical Officer of Health

# LOCAL STATISTICS

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>
Area (in acres)	32,048	32,048
Number of habitable houses	3,720	3,627
Population (mid-year estimate 1971)	8,640	8,490
Rateable Value (as at 1st April 1971)	£284,144	£274,019
Sum represented by 1p Rate	£2,760	£1,100 (1d)

## VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births (Registered)		<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Live Births	Total	54	42	96
	Legitimate	51	37	88
	Illegitimate	3	5	8
Stillbirths	Total	1	-	1
	Legitimate	1	-	1
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
Deaths (Registered)				
Total Deaths all ages		68	76	144
Deaths of infants under 1 year				
	Total	-	2	2
	Legitimate	-	2	2
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks				
	Total	-	2	2
	Legitimate	-	2	2
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
Deaths of infants under 1 week				
	Total	-	2	2
	Legitimate	-	2	2
	Illegitimate	-	-	-

In calculating birth and death rates area comparability factors are used. This is the figure given by the Registrar General to correct irregularities in the age and sex structure of the population and to take into account any high mortality due to the presence of residential institutions or other establishments in the local area.

The local crude rate is multiplied by the area comparability factor to give a rate comparable with other parts of the country.

The following figures show birth and death rates in comparison with the figure for England and Wales, that is the national figure.

#### Live Birth Rates

#### Bridport R.D. England & Wales

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Crude Rate)	11.1	16.0
Area Comparability Factor	1.36	1.0
Local Adjusted rate	15.1	16.0
Illegitimate live births as a percentage of the live births	8	8
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	10	12

#### Death Rate all ages

Deaths per 1,000 population (Crude Rate)	16.7	11.6
Area Comparability Factor	.73	1.0
Local Adjusted Rate	12.2	11.6

#### Infant Mortality Rate

Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births	21	18
Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births	23	17
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	24
Neonatal - deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births	21	12
Early Neonatal - deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	21	10
Perinatal (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined) per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	31	22

## COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

It is apparent from these statistics that deaths in the Rural District of Bridport exceed live births by a third. When however the area comparability factor is applied to these figures the birth and death rates were closely approximate to the national figure. Stillbirth rates and infant mortality rates are both slightly higher than that of the national average.

# CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Code</u>		1971		1970	
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
B6(1)	Late effects of respiratory tuberculosis	-	-	1	-
B6(2)	Other tuberculosis	1	-	-	-
B19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	-	1	1	-
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	1	2	1
B19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	3	-	-	3
B19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	4	4	7	1
B19(7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	2	-	-
B19(9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	4	-	1	-
B19(10)	Leukaemia	-	1	-	-
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	2	7	4	2
B21	Diabetes Mellitus	-	-	2	-
B46(1)	Other endocrine etc. diseases	-	-	1	-
B23	Aneamias	-	-	1	-
B46(3)	Mental Disorders	-	-	-	1
B46(4)	Multiple Sclerosis	-	1	-	-
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	-	3	-
B27	Hypertensive Disease	-	2	2	1
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	18	13	21	15
B29	Other forms of Heart Disease	2	2	1	7
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	9	19	13	8
B46(6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	2	2	3	2
B31	Influenza	-	-	1	1
B32	Pneumonia	9	9	4	6
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	4	1	1	-
B33(2)	Asthma	-	1	-	-
B46(7)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	2	-	-
B34	Peptic Ulcer	1	1	-	1
B36	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	-	-	1
B37	Cirrhosis of Liver	-	1	-	-
B46(8)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	-	-	2
B39	Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-	1	-
B46(11)	Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	1	-	-
B43	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc.	-	-	1	-
B44	Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	-	2	-	-
B45	Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	-	1	-	1
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	1	-	-
BE48	All Other Accidents	3	-	-	-
BE49	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	-	1	1	-
BE50	All Other External Causes	1	-	-	-
<u>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</u>		68	76	72	53

## CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

### (a) Diseases against which routine immunisation is offered:

#### Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis

There were no cases of Diphtheria, Tetanus or Poliomyelitis notified during the year, but four cases of Whooping Cough occurred.

#### Measles

65 cases of Measles were notified during 1971. This is a lower figure than that for last year which shows the benefit of the immunisation programme against Measles carried out by the local health authority.

#### Rubella

Vaccination against Rubella (German Measles) continues to be offered to all girls between their 11th and 14th birthdays but some time will elapse before the reduction in births of children handicapped by Rubella in the mother can be noted.

#### Smallpox

Smallpox vaccinations are now carried out in special cases by the family doctors concerned and was withdrawn as a public health service in November 1971.

#### Tuberculosis

The following table shows the position for the year 1971:-

Number of cases on register at 1st January	7
New cases notified during the year	1
Transfers into area during year	<u>-</u>
	8
Number recovered during the year	-
Number moved away in year	-
Died	<u>1</u>
Number remaining on 31st December	<u>7</u>

It will be seen from this that there was no change in the numbers of cases of Tuberculosis at the end of 1971 in Bridport Rural District.

Mass x-ray facilities have been withdrawn for sometime and there does not appear to have been an increase in the incidence of Tuberculosis since their withdrawal.

#### Cholera

During 1971 there was an epidemic of Cholera in Spain. The Public Health Department carried out strict surveillance on the travellers who entered Bridport Rural District after travelling through an infected area in Spain. No cases were reported.

(b) Infections against which routine immunisation is not offered:

Scarlet Fever

One case of Scarlet Fever was notified during the year.

Encephalitis

One case of Encephalitis was notified during 1971.

Infective Jaundice

No cases were notified during the year.

Brucellosis

Brucellosis is not a notifiable disease but it is obligatory to report cases to the local authority. There has been much discussion at Government level regarding an eradication scheme for Brucellosis from herds of dairy cattle. Milk is examined by the "three ring" test regularly by the Milk Sampling Officer for evidence of Brucellosis infection. There were three cases identified. Two of which were due to direct contact with an infected animal and one which appeared to have been acquired from the consumption of raw milk.

Food Poisoning

Although no cases of Food Poisoning were notified to this Department two cases were identified during the year and appropriate action taken. These cases were due to Salmonella bacillus. There was no connection between the cases. Samples taken by general practitioners proved to be positive.

Suspected Dysentery

No cases of suspected Dysentery were notified and no organisms of dysenteric groups isolated after the testing of 44 specimens at the local bacteriological laboratory.

The following table shows the number of immunisations carried out in schools and clinics during 1971 in the Rural District. I am indebted to the Department of the County Medical Officer of Health for these figures.

Poliomyelitis		Diphtheria		Tetanus		Whooping Cough		Smallpox		Measles	Rubella
P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	P
63	215	66	91	70	183	66	31	55	10	61	14

P = Primary Course

R = Reinforcing Dose

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following is a summary of notifiable diseases (excluding tuberculosis) occurring during the year.

<u>Disease</u>	Totals	
	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>
Measles	65	93
Whooping Cough	4	-
Scarlet Fever	1	-
Encephalitis	1	-
Infective Jaundice	-	2

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT 1951

It was not necessary to take any action under this Act by which persons living in insanitary conditions, unable to care for themselves, not receiving help from others and unwilling to go to hospital can be removed to places of safety on an order signed by a Magistrate.

### WELFARE OF THE ELDERLY

Social welfare of the aged was taken over by the Social Services Department on the 1st April 1971.

### REHOUSING ON MEDICAL GROUNDS

No elderly residents were visited during the year to assess their need for rehousing on relevant medical grounds.

### ADULT HEALTH EDUCATION

There were no Health Education talks given in the Bridport Rural District. It is hoped that this situation might be improved upon as the County Council have employed a Health Education Officer and Deputy.

### MILK SAMPLES

There were 102 samples taken in the Bridport Rural District by the Dorset County Council milk sampling officers and there were four failures. In Bridport Rural District there are at present 9 producer/retailers of untreated milk. One school, Monkton Wylde School who are self caterers supply untreated milk from their own farm to their school inhabitants.

### FLUORIDATION OF WATER

Water containing 1 part per million of Fluoride is accepted by the various medical associations (the British Medical Association, British Dental Association, the United States Public Health Department, etc.) as being the amount of fluoride contained in water supplies to give the greatest benefit to children's first and second dentitions. Bridport Rural District's water supplies contain less than 0.1 p.p.m. of Fluoride.



BRIDPORT

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1971

Joint Public Health Department  
West Rivers House  
West Allington  
BRIDPORT, Dorset

Telephone: Bridport 2301/3

Mr. Chairman and Councillors

It is with much pleasure that I present for your consideration my report on the work carried out within the Rural District by the Public Health Inspectorate during 1971. A separate report of the work undertaken within the Bridport Borough has been prepared.

The year has been one of steady progress in the field of public health and the greater part of the resident population now live and work in acceptable conditions. The much discussed subject of environmental pollution is not new to officers of this Department and our basic aim must continue to be towards securing improvements to the environment wherever and whenever possible.

One change in staff took place in the latter part of the year, but the establishment remains unaltered, viz. a chief, a deputy, one inspector, one meat inspector, one student, one rodent operator and one clerk/typist.

I would like to express my appreciation to all members of the Council and officers for their continued support and co-operation. To Dr. K. Adams, who resigned towards the end of the year as Medical Officer of Health, may I say a personal thank you for all the helpful and pleasant working hours spent together.

To the members of the public health staff both present and past I am again indebted for their unfailing efforts and for a year's work very well done.



Chief Public Health Inspector

## HOUSING

There is much to be said in favour of one department or section of a department being responsible to the local authority for the repair, closure, demolition or improvement of dwellings in the private sector, and I do believe that these four aspects of housing are inseparable.

The public health inspectors of this Council have continued to devote much time to the subject and have been able to locate unacceptable housing and deal with it by informal or formal action. To be able to assess a situation and apply the correct piece of legislation at the correct time, having due regard for the people involved, is a skill gained over many years.

Nationally, much publicity has been given to the need to repair and improve our stock of older homes, but the power to close or demolish houses either individually or in clearance areas must not be forgotten. There is no better way to stress the importance given by both the Bridport Rural District and the Bridport Borough Councils to house improvement as opposed to demolition, than to tabulate and compare the year's figures, viz. :-

	Bridport Rural District Council	Bridport Borough Council	Totals
No. of houses improved with a Standard Grant and amount paid	25 (£5,442.50)	25 (£6,175.50)	50 (£11,618.00)
No. of houses improved with an Improvement Grant and amount paid	37 (£31,197.00)	21 (£14,079.00)	58 (£45,276.00)
Totals	62 (£36,639.50)	46 (£20,254.50)	108 (£56,894.00)
No. of houses demolished	1	12	13

If one assumes that the present average cost of a new house is £7,000., the foregoing figures clearly indicate the good sense in giving the owners of existing sub-standard property financial assistance and encouragement.

In view of the great demand locally and nationally for satisfactory accommodation, there are two aspects of private housing which the legislators would do well to consider, viz. :-

(1) The unoccupied unfit dwellings which, by reason of the owners' failure to repair and improve or to sell to willing buyers, remain unoccupied and become useless monuments.

If suitable powers of requisitioning such dwellings were given to local authorities, families in urgent need of homes of their own would in the end reap the benefit.

(2) The dwellings which become vacant and, although they are not unfit for human habitation, are nevertheless sub-standard as they lack one or more of the standard amenities, e.g. an inside W.C. or a bath in a bathroom.

An obligation should be placed on the owner or purchaser to provide these properties with the missing amenities prior to re-occupation.

The following action was taken in 1971 :-

#### Displacement of Families and Persons

The following shows the number of families and persons who were rehoused during the year from unfit dwellings. The rehousing was carried out by another local authority.

	<u>Families</u>	<u>Persons</u>
From houses to be demolished in or adjoining Clearance Areas	- (-)	- (-)
From houses to be demolished not in or adjoining Clearance Areas	1 (1)	3 (1)
From houses to be closed	- (1)	- (1)
<u>Totals</u>	1 (2)	3 (2)

Note: Figures in brackets relate to 1970.

#### Demolition Orders Revoked - Houses made fit

Bradpole - 1 Knapp Cottages  
2 Knapp Cottages

These, together with No. 3 Knapp Cottages, were modernised and converted into one dwelling.

Whitchurch Canonichorum - Greenway Cottage  
Purcombe Farmhouse

Purcombe Farmhouse was converted into two self-contained dwellings.

Total - 4 (0 in 1970)

Undertakings Cancelled - Houses made fit

Burton Bradstock - 7 High Street  
Charmouth - Brackendale, Axminster Road  
Litton Cheney - 1 Church Path Cottages  
                  2 Church Path Cottages  
                  3 Church Path Cottages  
                  4/5 Church Path Cottages  
                  Locott, Chalk Pit Lane  
Puncknowle - 3 Bride Valley Cottages  
                  14 Church Street  
Whitchurch Canonorum - Birdshaye Farmhouse

Total - 10 (3 in 1970)

Undertakings accepted not to use Houses for Human Habitation Until Made Fit

Allington - Washingpool Farm Cottage  
Litton Cheney - 12 The Paddocks  
Loders - 22 Loders

Total - 3 (1 in 1970)

Undertakings accepted not to use Houses for Human Habitation,  
upon vacation by present tenants, until made fit

Litton Cheney - 11 The Paddocks  
Loders - 44 Uploders

Total - 2 (6 in 1970)

Proposals accepted to render Houses fit for Human Habitation

Allington - 4 Dottery  
Bradpole - 3/4 Forsters Lane  
                  4 Tunis Terrace  
Burton Bradstock - 7 High Street  
Charmouth - Brackendale, Axminster Road  
Litton Cheney - Hycott, Chalk Pit Lane  
                  1 Church Path Cottages  
                  2 Church Path Cottages  
                  3 Church Path Cottages  
Loders - Trossacks, Uploders  
Symondsburry - 1 Foundry Knapp  
Whitchurch Canonorum - Birdshaye Farmhouse  
                          Eagle Cottage  
                          Purcombe Farmhouse  
                          Rose Cottage

Total - 15 (5 in 1970)

### Closing Orders made

Bradpole - 3 Tunis Terrace  
Symondsburry - Port Cottage, Eype  
Whitchurch Canonicorum - 3 Spring Bottom

Total - 3

### Demolition Orders made

Symondsburry - The Cottage, West Road  
The Fort, Eype

Total - 2

### Dwellings Demolished

Loders - Berenice, New Road, Uploders

Total - 1

### Undertaking accepted not to use House for Human Habitation until certain works are completed

Whitchurch Canonicorum - The Chalet, Pitmans Lane

Total - 1

### Improvement to Dwellinghouses

#### Private Dwellings

(1) Standard Grants (Note: figures in brackets refer to 1970)

	Owner/Occupier		Other		Total	
Applications received during 1971	16	(30)	4	(17)	20	(47)
Applications brought forward from previous year	-	(1)	4	(-)	4	(1)
Applications approved	15	(29)	6	(13)	21	(42)
Applications refused	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)
Applications withdrawn	-	(1)	2	(-)	2	(1)
Applications in hand at end of year	1	(1)	-	(4)	1	(5)
No. of dwellings improved and grants paid	18	(14)	7	(9)	25	(23)

Total amount paid in standard grants = £5,442.50 (£5,459.11)

Average amount paid per house = £217.70 (£237.35)

No. of amenities provided within the 25 dwellings improved during the year :-

	Owner/Occupier		Other		Total	
(a) Fixed bath in a bathroom	7	(5)	4	(6)	11	(11)
(b) Fixed bath in a new bathroom addition	7	(5)	1	(1)	8	(6)
(c) Wash hand basin	14	(11)	6	(8)	20	(19)
(d) Hot water supply to bath	14	(10)	5	(8)	19	(18)
(e) Hot water supply to wash hand basin	15	(11)	7	(8)	22	(19)
(f) Hot water supply to sink	8	(6)	5	(9)	13	(15)
(g) W.C.	16	(11)	6	(9)	22	(20)
(h) Septic tank	4	(5)	1	(4)	5	(9)
(i) Sink and piped water supply	-	(1)	-	(2)	-	(3)
(j) Sink	6	(1)	2	(3)	8	(4)
(k) Piped cold water supply	-	(1)	1	(1)	1	(2)

The "reduced standard" of amenities, as defined in section 43(5) of the Housing Act 1969, has not been utilised.

(2) Improvement Grants (Note: Figures in brackets refer to 1970)

	Owner/Occupier		Other		Total	
Applications received for Improvements during 1971	12	(16)	31	(26)	43	(42)
Applications for Improvements brought forward from 1970	2	(2)	3	(1)	5	(3)
*Applications for Conversions received during 1971	1	(1)	5	(3)	6	(4)
Applications approved	11	(17)	35	(25)	46	(42)
Applications refused	1	(-)	-	(-)	1	(-)
Applications withdrawn	-	(-)	2	(2)	2	(2)
Applications outstanding at end of year	3	(2)	2	(3)	5	(5)
No. of dwellings improved and grant paid	12	(9)	25	(19)	37	(28)

\* 1 of these applications was in respect of converting a Mill into four self-contained dwellings.

1 was in respect of converting 2 dwellings into 1 dwelling.

2 were in respect of converting 1 dwelling into 2 dwellings.

2 were in respect of converting a Barn into 1 dwelling.

Total amount paid in improvement grants = £31,197. (£20,242.50)

Average amount paid per dwelling = £843.16. (£722.94)

With regard to the improvement grants paid during the year for works of conversion :-

1 Mill was converted into 3 dwellings  
4 Houses were converted into 2 dwellings  
1 House was converted into 2 dwellings.

#### Improvement Areas

No improvement areas have been declared by the Council under the Housing Act 1969.

In November the Bridport Rural District and Borough Councils received representatives from the Department of the Environment and, in the presence of members of the Councils, officers, local architects, surveyors and builders, house and area improvement was illustrated and discussed.

#### Improvement of Dwellings outside Improvement Areas

Under the Housing act 1964, the tenant of a dwelling which lacks one or more of the standard amenities can make representations in writing to the Council with a view to the Council exercising their powers. Property owners can be compelled to carry out the improvement works.

One representation was received during the year, but the Council decided to take no action as there was no justification for the spending of money on a septic tank pending the provision of main drainage.

#### Certificates of Disrepair

No applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair in terms of the Rent Act 1957. The annual return to the Department of the Environment has been discontinued.

#### Underground Rooms

Underground rooms are still in evidence within the Rural District and appropriate Regulations were made in 1970 to secure proper standards. The Regulations came into operation during the year and are proving to be of value.

#### Houses in Multiple Occupation

The Local Authority have powers under the Housing Acts 1961-1969 to deal with houses in multiple occupation, but the powers have not been utilised within this district as there are no known cases.

Multiple occupation is unwanted and I do trust that property owners will not permit their properties to be utilised in this way.

### Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses within the District.

### Qualification Certificates

#### (a) Dwellings already provided with standard amenities

If an owner considers that a house satisfies the qualifying conditions i.e. that it is fit for human habitation, is in a good state of repair, and it had all the five standard amenities prior to the 25 August 1969, he may apply to the Council for a Qualification Certificate. If granted, the controlled tenancy becomes regulated on the date the certificate is issued.

No. of applications received during 1969	=	1
No. of applications received during 1970	=	Nil
No. of applications received during 1971	=	6
No. of applications approved and Certificates issued in 1971	=	2 *
No. of Certificates issued from 25/8/69 to 31/12/71	=	3

\* One Certificate was issued in respect of a dwelling having a rateable value in excess of £60.

The other Certificate was in respect of a dwelling having a rateable value of between £40. and £60.

In one case an application for a Certificate was refused, on the grounds that the standard amenities had been installed after 25 August 1969.

#### (b) Dwellings to be provided with standard amenities

If a house, occupied by a controlled tenant, lacks any of the standard amenities, the owner can apply to the Council for a Provisional Certificate and submit his proposals to provide the dwelling with the missing standard amenities and to comply with the qualifying conditions. The Qualification Certificate is issued upon the satisfactory completion of the work and the tenancy becomes regulated from the date the Certificate is issued.

No. of applications received during 1969	=	Nil
No. of applications received during 1970	=	11
No. of applications received during 1971	=	7
No. of applications approved and Provisional Certificates issued in 1971	=	12
No. of applications approved and Provisional Certificates issued from 25/8/69 to 31/12/71	=	18
No. of Qualification Certificates issued in 1971	=	6
No. of Qualification Certificates issued from 25/8/69 to 31/12/71	=	7

Difficulties have been experienced by some landlords in determining whether their tenancies are "controlled" or "regulated" and in several instances they have followed, unwittingly, the wrong procedure. In every case the public health inspector checks the accuracy of the information given on each form of application when he is carrying out the inspection of the property.

### Overcrowding

In March 1970 the Council issued a licence under the Housing Act 1957 to the occupier of a private dwellinghouse, authorising the dwelling to be used by more than the permitted number of persons. The matter was resolved when a certain member of the family vacated the dwelling.

### Unfit Dwellings not Capable of Repair at Reasonable Expense

See Appendix I on following page.

## UNFIT DWELLINGS NOT CAPABLE OF REPAIR AT REASONABLE EXPENSE

PARISH	Total Known Dwellings	Undertaking accepted to carry out repairs and improvements	U/T. accepted not to use house for human habitation until made fit	U/T. accepted not to use house for human habitation upon vacation by occupier until made fit	Subject of Demolition Order	Subject of Closing Order	Purchased by L.A.
ALLINGTON	7	1	1	-	-	5	-
ASKERSWELL	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
BOTHENHAMPTON	3	2	-	1	-	-	-
BRADPOLE	3	2	-	-	-	1	-
BURTON BRADSTOCK	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
CATHERSTON LEWESTON	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
CHARMOUTH	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
CHIDEOCK	3	-	-	2	1	-	-
CHILCOMBE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LITTON CHENEY	2	-	1	1	-	-	-
LODERS	3	-	-	3	-	-	-
PUNCKNOWLE	3	2	-	1	-	-	-
SHIPTON GORGE	3	-	-	3	-	-	-
STANTON ST. GABRIEL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SWYRE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SYMONDSBURY	27	9	-	12	2	1	3
WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM	11	4	-	2	3	2	-
WOOTTON FITZPAINE	4	-	-	4	-	-	-
TOTALS	73	20	3	31	7	9	3

## FOOD PREMISES AND FOOD INSPECTION

### Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970

There are 178 food premises in the district, as follows :-

Biscuits and Confectionery	1	Bread and Confectionery	2
Butchers	5	Cafes and Ice Cream	6
Canteens	6	Cheese Factory	1
Clubs, Licensed Premises	4	Confectionery and Ice Cream	2
Fruit and Vegetables	3	General Food	14
Fishmonger	2	Guest Houses	22
General Food and Ice Cream	32	Hotels	15
Hamburgers	1	Hospital Kitchen	1
Restaurants	8	Ice Cream	3
Honey	1	Inns and Ice Cream	4
Inns	28	Milk	14
Market Gardening	1	Slaughterhouse	1
School and Ice Cream	1		
			<hr/>
			TOTAL 178

### Food Premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act 1955 (Sec. 16)

Storage and sale of ice cream	66
Preparation or manufacture of Sausages	
or Potted, Pressed or Pickled food	6
Cooked Fish	1

### Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970

The Public Health Inspectors have continued to make routine visits of inspection to food businesses to assess standards and advise on the hygienic handling, preparation and cooking of food.

This is an important aspect of our work which deserves close and continual attention.

### Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966

These Regulations came into operation on 1 January 1967, and lay down requirements as to food hygiene at Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles.

No formal notices were served during the year.

### Meat Inspection

The throughput at the slaughterhouse during the twelve months to 31 December 1971 was approximately the same as the previous year, there being an increase in the number of sheep slaughtered but considerable decrease in the case of calves. This is due to a continuing demand for rearing calves and consequent

high price of all calves in the markets, making veal a most expensive or luxury meat.

It will be seen that cows made up more than a third of cattle slaughtered during the year.

This type of animal is more liable to disease than cattle bred for early slaughter and conditions observed by the Meat Inspector include tumours, some malignant and occurring throughout the body, parturition fevers, septic pneumonia and many localised conditions, fractures, arthritis, actinomycosis, the ever present liver fluke and parasitic infection of organs.

### Tuberculosis

Although generally eradicated from cattle, this disease was indicated in various herds tested by Ministry Veterinary Officers and all reactors were consigned for slaughter. 187 T.B. reactors were dealt with at the slaughterhouse and post mortem showed 72 of them to have positive lesions. In the case of 3 cows the disease was found to be generalised throughout the carcass and in 5 other cases the carcasses were poor and dropsical; these carcasses were totally rejected.

60 cattle (reactors) were sent in from farms in South Dorset in the early months of the year and it was thought that these farms were cleared of infection, but further testing at mid-summer showed another 18 reactors. Those and all in contact animals were slaughtered and this prompt action seems to have removed the source of infection, for repeated tests up to the end of the year all proved negative, and the farm is now believed to be free from tuberculosis.

### Brucellosis

This is a scourge among dairy herds and the Ministry's Veterinary Officers are now busily engaged in testing stock and advising farmers on the building up of Brucella free herds.

Reactors are sent for slaughter and, as the causative organism is normally only retained in the uterus and udder, carcasses are passed for human consumption when these organs are removed and destroyed.

Pigs continue to present some interesting diseases and conditions. Tail biting can be a real menace, infection spreading rapidly from the tail through the vertebrae along the spinal cord or through the lymphatic system, setting up abscesses in various parts of the carcass muscle and bone. To prevent more serious loss by rejection of the carcass pig keepers are always advised to send affected pigs for slaughter without delay. However, generally speaking, pigs are healthier, i.e. more free from disease, than a few years ago. Virus pneumonia is not nearly so prevalent, tuberculosis is almost unknown, and arthritic conditions although still found are not usually so widespread or serious.

A very large number of casualty animals is received at Bradpole slaughterhouse and the position regarding these is still unsatisfactory. When it is known that all animals and carcasses are subject to inspection it is surely only common sense to give the inspector particulars of the illness or condition of any animal sent for emergency slaughter. This saves time and enables a fair judgment to be made, often benefiting the producer. Owners of livestock sent for emergency slaughter are advised to enquire of the meat inspector or slaughterhouse management as to whether or not their animals were passed fit for food after slaughter.

Slaughterhouse hygiene is a difficult task throughout the country and old, adapted premises are not easily maintained in hygienic conditions. Animals, particularly sheep and cattle raised under cover, arrive in very dirty conditions, well plastered with mud and dung, and it is a skilful and difficult task to get a clean carcass from such animals. A very good standard is maintained but employees need to be reminded often that they are working in a food factory. The slaughterhouse at Bradpole does a very good job under difficult conditions and it is hoped that 1972 will see further advancements made in the layout and construction of the premises.

The particulars of the carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part at the slaughterhouse during 1971 are set out in the following table.

	Cattle ex Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1,080	676	1,116	16,917	8,514
Number inspected	1,080	676	1,116	16,917	8,514
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	10	37	29	40	80
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	340	430	99	1,140	1,224
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	32.4%	69.1%	11.4%	6.9%	15.3%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	3	2	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	34	40	1	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.4%	6.3%	.26%	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

On 16 August 1971 the Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations 1971 came into force and they raised the maximum charges which could be determined by the Council for inspection of carcasses. The Council agreed to implement from the 16 August the new charges in full, viz. :-

	<u>Previous</u>	<u>New</u>
In the case of each bovine animal other than a calf	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ p	18p
In the case of each calf or pig	4p	5p
In the case of each sheep, lamb or goat	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p	4p

### Slaughtermen

Licences to slaughter or stun animals are granted by the Council under the Slaughter of Animals Act 1958.

Six persons were granted a licence for a period of twelve months to slaughter or stun cattle, sheep, swine or goats using captive bolt or electrolethaler instruments. One other person was granted a licence to slaughter or stun animals on condition that he carried out the work under the supervision of a competent slaughterman.

### Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing establishments in this district, but during the year, in the absence of their Public Health Inspector, the department assisted Beaminster R.D.C. and carried out poultry inspection at an establishment in Salwayash.

### Food Supply - 6 complaints

The following is a synopsis of food complaints referred to the Public Health Department and dealt with during 1971.

<u>Complaint</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>
1. Mouldy Sausage Rolls	A party of 6 adults and 67 children who were on holiday in Swanage spent a day in the West Bay area, and each person had been given a packed lunch consisting of a sausage roll and other items of food. The sausage rolls were found to be mouldy and most had been eaten by the children. Matter passed to Swanage U.D.C.

<u>Complaint</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>
2. Mould on Canned Oranges	An 11 oz. can of mandarin oranges had been purchased by a local resident in Dorchester and, on being opened four days after purchase, the fruit was found to be covered in mould. Matter passed to Dorchester M.B.
3. Mouldy Cornish Pasty	This had been sold at a caravan site shop and was nine days old when sold. Complainant did not wish Court action to be taken. Warning letter sent to retailer.
4. Mouldy Pie	This was one of four pies purchased at a caravan site shop by a holidaymaker who was en route home to Berkshire. The complaint was received nine days after purchase and the pie was not produced in evidence. Advice given to retailer re stock rotation.
5. Stale Cakes	These were not produced by the complainant but advice was given to retailer re stock rotation.
6. Decomposed Bacon	This was delivered to an hotel, but was not produced in evidence. Circumstances warranted the matter being referred to a Devon colleague in whose area the bacon had been prepared and packed.

#### Condemnation of Food

The following foodstuffs were surrendered voluntarily by a trader and were disposed of as being unfit for human consumption. A certificate of condemnation was issued.

Fish 14 lbs.

Number of visits = 1

## WATER SUPPLIES

Although the majority of properties are provided with mains water by the Dorset Water Board, four dwellings are connected to the mains of the East Devon Water Board and the remainder are supplied with water by other private means.

Much progress has been made in the past twelve months to ensure that mains water is made readily available to dwellings in the district. A water main has been laid in the Burton Mere area of Burton Bradstock and properties are in the process of being connected by the respective owners.

The Eype and West Road area of the Parish of Symondsburry, which I stressed in my last report to be in real need of adequate and wholesome water, is to be provided with a mains supply by the Dorset Water Board and work should commence before the end of 1972. During a period of two years ending in November 1971, 152 samples of water were taken from 68 dwellings in this area and the bacteriological results showed 107 to be unsatisfactory in quality. These 68 dwellings and a further 27 will be capable of being connected to the new mains.

The task of identifying the exact location of all dwellings not yet on mains is progressing. A total of 206 samples was taken from 124 dwellings and the following table shows the results of the examinations carried out by the Public Health Laboratory. The figures in brackets relate to the year 1970.

<u>Private Supplies</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Suspicious</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
Source	18 (-)	- (3)	37 (3)	55 (6)
Consumer	59 (24)	6 (7)	86 (23)	151 (54)
Totals	77 (24)	6 (10)	123 (26)	206 (60)

All owners and/or occupiers of the properties with unsatisfactory water were advised of appropriate measures to take to improve quality.

Source and consumer points within the district served by the Water Board are regularly sampled.

The following table shows the number of dwellings and the number of the population, in Parishes, supplied from public water mains.

PIPED WATER SUPPLY

PARISH	Actual Dwellings	DWELLINGS SUPPLIED BY	ESTIMATED POPULATION	
			Est. Popn.	Supplied direct to dwellings
		Water Board		Water Board
ALLINGTON	75	46	249	151
ASKERSWELL	56	38	137	90
BOTHENHAMPTON	649	622	1,300	1,240
BRADPOLE	528	513	1,330	1,290
BURTON BRADSTOCK	405	385	700	663
CATHERSTON LEWESTON	33	31	65	62
CHARMOUTH	510	509	990	987
CHIDEOCK	259	221	559	477
CHILCOMBE	6	6	14	14
LITTON CHENEY	96	72	216	159
LODERS	173	135	414	320
PUNCKNOWLE	180	156	350	306
SHIPTON GORGE	134	121	256	234
STANTON ST. GABRIEL	44	21	92	41
SWYRE	39	36	91	84
SYMONDSBURY	423	261	938	553
WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM	285	190	635	416
WOOTTON FITZPAINE	113	17	304	39
TOTALS	4,008	3,380	8,640	7,126

Note: No persons are supplied with water by means of standpipes.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Asker Valley and the Litton Cheney and Swyre sewerage schemes have now been completed and property connections have been made. Although septic tanks are still in evidence, much of the rural area is now sewered. The comparatively new submarine outfall pipe at West Bay, Bridport caters for the sewage from the Parishes of Askerswell, Bothenhampton, Bradpole and Loders, including Uploders, and the five sewage disposal works at Burton Bradstock, Charmouth, Chideock, Puncknowle and Shipton Gorge deal with the sewage from Burton Bradstock, Catherston Leweston and Charmouth, Chideock, Litton Cheney and Puncknowle and Swyre, and Shipton Gorge.

At the height of the holiday season the sewage works at Burton Bradstock and Charmouth are overloaded, which results in public health problems. The Council is aware of these unsatisfactory situations and efforts are being made to find satisfactory solutions.

In 1970 the Council agreed in principle to a scheme to sewer part of the Parishes of Symondsbury and Allington, i.e. Symondsbury village and West Road. The preparation of the scheme is in hand and it is expected that the work will commence before the end of next year and will be completed by December 1973.

The Eype, Eype's Mouth and Morcombelake areas are in need of main drainage and it is to be hoped that both schemes will commence before the end of 1974.

On one occasion, in mid-summer, the river water at Seatown turned septic due to pollution. The river mouth was opened to allow the water free passage into the sea.

The department has been faced with problems associated with bucket toilets and a check is being made of some 220 properties to ascertain the extent to which such toilets are still in use. The Council does not operate either a night soil collection or a septic tank emptying service and the owners of the properties concerned make their own arrangements with private contractors, who operate in the area. Some complaints were received in respect of defective and/or overflowing septic tanks and all were successfully dealt with.

## PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The construction of the new public conveniences on the west side of the beach car park at West Bexington has been completed, and in addition the Council own conveniences at Seatown Beach and near the Charmouth Beach. A mobile convenience is situated adjacent to the A.35 trunk road near the Traveller's Rest, Loders, and is in constant use - particularly during the holiday months.

Planning permissions have been granted to construct new conveniences at the car park in Lower Sea Lane, Charmouth and at the playing fields in Burton Bradstock. Construction work on both should commence during 1972.

Attempts are being made to locate a suitable site for conveniences at Chideock. The suggestion that conveniences be provided at Eype's Mouth beach is still in abeyance, pending the provision of mains water supply.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Engineer and Surveyor is the authorised officer for this service, and two modern continuous loading refuse vehicles are in use. Domestic refuse is collected each fortnight and is disposed of at the Borough's refuse tip at Bothenhampton. The tip is used by both this Council and the Bridport M.B.

Towards the end of the year a compould was constructed at the entrance to the tip to enable members of the public to deposit rubbish or other unwanted household objects outside working hours and at week-ends. The contents of the compound are removed as necessary to the principal tip by Council workmen.

During the summer months a special weekly collection of refuse from caravan and camping sites and hotels is carried out, and appropriate charges are made.

The department again received a few complaints in regard to the absence of a weekly refuse collection service. All complainants are advised of the Council's policy in regard to this matter.

### CLEAN AIR

No smoke control areas have been declared, but where property owners carry out alterations they are encouraged to remove disused fireplaces or to provide approved appliances capable of burning smokeless fuel.

Several complaints were received during the year in regard to smoke from bonfires. All complaints were investigated and in all cases it was considered that problems would have been avoided if the owners of the bonfires had given a little more thought for neighbours and weather conditions.

For the sixth successive year the air pollution equipment at Eggardon Hill, Askerswell continued to operate, together with the European air pollution survey equipment operating for the third year.

The average daily concentration of smoke for the whole of 1971 was 4.7 microgrammes per cubic metre, a slight increase on the 1970 figure which was the lowest so far recorded. The sulphur dioxide concentration for the whole year was 17.6 microgrammes per cubic metre, the lowest figure recorded over the last six years. The highest concentration of smoke occurred in March 1971 (8.8 microgrammes per cubic metre per day), and of sulphur dioxide in April (30.0 microgrammes).

# FACTORIES ACT 1961

During the year the content of the Factory Register was checked with H.M. Inspector of Factories.

## FACTORIES ON THE COUNCIL'S REGISTER AND DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS MADE

	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities	12	12	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	12	12	-	-

## FACTORIES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act not including offences relating to outworkers	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	1	-	1	-

OUTWORK

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 133 (1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Nets other than wire nets	79	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	79	-	-	-	-	-

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

All known premises coming within the scope of this Act have been inspected and routine visits have continued to ascertain whether or not standards have been maintained. Action was taken where defects were found.

No accidents involving employed persons were notified.

The following are the prescribed particulars to be included in the annual report under Section 60 of the Act :-

	No. of premises registered during 1971	No. of premises registered at the end of :-		No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection	
		1970	1971	1970	1971
Offices	-	6	6	3	3
Retail shops	2	26	28	14	16
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	-	-	-	-
Catering establishments	-	21	21	20	17
Fuel storage depots	-	1	1	-	-
TOTAL	2	54	56	37	36

No. of visits of all kinds by inspectors to registered premises 60

	Analysis of persons employed in Registered Premises as at 31st December	
<u>Class of work place</u>	<u>No. of persons</u>	
	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
Offices	23	23
Retail shops	53	55
Wholesale departments	-	-
Catering Establishments	93	93
Canteens	2	2
Fuel storage depots	2	2
TOTAL	173	175
Total males	53	54
Total females	120	121

#### ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

One person is licensed under this Act to keep an animal boarding establishment and the premises can accommodate not more than six cats.

#### NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

"Noise" is regarded as unwanted sound and its reduction to a tolerable level depends most upon standards of public social behaviour.

The law relating to noise is contained within the Noise Abatement Act 1960 and a Dorset County Council Byelaw made in 1935.

No statutory notices were served during the year, but the Public Health Inspectors did deal with 9 complaints - 5 within the Rural District and 4 within the Borough. The following is a synopsis of the 9 complaints :-

#### Bridport Rural District Council

<u>Complaint</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>
1. Barking dogs.	Signed petition received from the occupants of 12 properties. 16 dogs were involved in this occurrence and many late night observations were made. No statutory action was taken by the Council. The owner and his dogs eventually left the area.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 2. Noise from motor and/or gearbox at sewage works. | Investigated by P.H.I. and sub-committee. Noise nuisance was not established. No action.   |
| 3. Barking dog.                                     | No noise nuisance was established, but the complaint was referred to the R.S.P.C.A. as the welfare of the dog was involved. The dog was old and blind and was left unattended for long spells.                 |
| 4. Noise from grain drying machine.                 | This noise, which was continuous throughout several nights, was confirmed and it was audible for about one mile from source. Makers of machine suggested a remedy and this was passed to the farmer concerned. |
| 5. Loud radio on building site.                     | This only occurred during normal working hours, and the building contractor was advised of the content of a local Byelaw. This resolved the problem.   |

Bridport Borough Council

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 6. Occupants of garage carrying out late night repairs. | Investigated. Letters sent. Report submitted to Borough Council. No further action.   |
| 7. Church clock chiming throughout night.               | Owners recommended to fit timing mechanism to regulate chiming. No practical steps taken due to cost. Facts reported to Borough Council. No further action. |
| 8. Bleating sheep.                                      | Reported to Council. No action.   |
| 9. Noisy cockerels and pigs.                            | These were being kept in a small-holding near Council-owned old persons' flats. Owner destroyed cockerels. No action taken re pigs.                         |

In 8 cases above the complainants all alleged that their sleep was being disturbed, and in the other case the noise was regarded as an intrusion into the complainant's otherwise peaceful way of life.

Due to the steady increase in noise complaints within the areas covered by Bridport M.B. and Bridport R.D.C. and Dorchester M.B. and Dorchester R.D.C., the four authorities agreed to purchase jointly a noise meter and ancillary equipment. This is now in our possession.

## RODENT CONTROL AND ERADICATION OF VERMIN

The Council gives a free control service to the occupiers of dwellinghouses, but there is a charge of £2. per hour made to the occupiers of business premises, with a minimum charge of £1. This charge is inclusive of all labour and materials.

19 premises were subject of Council Agreements and there was an income from this source of £120.

On 9 occasions the occupiers of business premises not subject of Contract were re-charged for rodent control work carried out on their premises. All were rat infested.

The public sewers and the refuse tip at Bothenhampton received attention and infestations were found and dealt with.

The Department is always ready to advise property owners on measures to take to rat-proof their premises.

The following table is the content of the annual return submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food :-

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	NON- AGRICULTURAL	AGRICULTURAL
1. Number of properties in the district	4122	418
2. a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	172	2
b) Number infested by (i) rats	147	1
(ii) mice	25	1
3. a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	541	58
b) Number infested by (i) rats	11	38
(ii) mice	-	-

96 visits were made to clear the 26 mice infestations.

814 visits were made to clear the 148 notified rat infestations.

216 visits were made to clear the 49 rat infestations.

In addition the Rodent Operator dealt with the following infestations :-

Ants	1 complaints	Hornets	3 complaints
Bats	3 "	Moles	33 "
Bees	8 "	Wasps	52 "
Cockroaches	2 "		
Fleas	9 "	Total	117 complaints
Flies	6 "		

### CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITES

The Department administers the Public Health Act 1936 and the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 dealing with tents and caravans respectively. Nine tent licences authorising the stationing of a maximum of 933 tents on the sites and thirty-one caravan site licences authorising the stationing of 18 residential caravans, 1,307 seasonal caravans and 261 touring caravans were in force at the end of the year. In addition, the Camping Club of Great Britain and Ireland Ltd., which is an exempted organisation, has the use of land in Charmouth for the stationing of 100 tents by Club Members. A further eleven sites are in use by members of the Caravan Club Ltd. - one of these sites can be used for the stationing of 118 caravans and on each of the other ten sites a maximum of five caravans can be stationed by Club Members for purposes of recreation.

This area of Dorset is popular amongst the holiday caravanners and at the height of the holiday season with "FULL" notices conspicuously displayed at the entrances to licensed sites, the holidaymaker must either park his caravan in a lay-by or move on. No suitable powers are available to enable local authorities to curtail this practice of stopping overnight on these highway lay-bys and verges.

Visits of inspection were made to licensed sites during the year and in certain cases informal notices were sent to licensees drawing their attention to defects. No persons were prosecuted.



